

Ateneo de Manila University

Archīum Ateneo

We Forum

Special Collections

12-1979

We Forum, vol iii No.35

Jose Burgos, Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://archium.ateneo.edu/we-forum>



Part of the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Burgos, Jr., Jose, "We Forum, vol iii No.35" (1979). *We Forum*. 32.
<https://archium.ateneo.edu/we-forum/32>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Archīum Ateneo. It has been accepted for inclusion in We Forum by an authorized administrator of Archīum Ateneo. For more information, please contact oadrcw.ls@ateneo.edu.

Malayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!

SABI NI 'SIR'

I feel more than ever, the need for us to close ranks. To unite in the awareness that the gravest threat to our nation today is not the problem of rising costs (though this is a serious one, indeed), but that of our slipping back into the mire of factionalism and selfish privilege.

Pres. Marcos, Thanksgiving Day, Sept. 21, 1974



the national weekly
FORUM
of free expression

BLOCK VOTING

To adopt block voting is fraught with danger to the nation's peaceful existence since it is erosive of the people's faith in their political leaders.

Reynaldo T. Fajardo
Con-Con delegate, Manila

VOL. III NO. 35

PCPM Certificate of Registration No. 387

FOR THE WEEK DEC 22-28, 1979

4

50 CVOS. IN METRO MANILA

AN EDITORIAL

Jesus Christ was a subversive

One thousand and nine hundred seventy nine years ago, an out-of-town couple — the woman heavy with child — was turned away from an inn and the wife was forced to give birth to a baby boy inside a barren, dingy cave which served as a stable. The baby was thus born a squatter.

The boy grew up soon enough. His name

was Jesus.

He wandered about the land, preaching about the rights of every human being to live, to love and to learn. He was, in fact, an advocate of human rights.

In every town and city, but most particularly in depressed areas, Jesus, the squatter that He was, mingled with the lowly

crowds . . . the little people — the laborers, the fishermen, the unemployed, the bums of his day.

He wanted people to open their eyes and witness the deprivations around them. He urged them to speak their minds out on every conceivable issue of the day. He opted

(Page 2, please)

POLITICAL POT BOILS

Elect Metro Gov'r-Laban

JUSTICE CECILIA MUÑOZ-PALMA ASKS

What are our options today?

(Homily delivered by retired Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma during the Liturgical Celebration in commemoration of the 31st anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights under the auspices of the Kilusan Para Sa Katarungan at Kapayapaan (Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace), December 10, 1979, Christ the King Seminary Chapel.)

To open my little talk, let me quote this passage from verse 6, Psalm 102 of the great Solomon:

"The Lord secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed."

Most Reverend Minis-

ters of God and my brothers and sisters in Christ:

Can there be a more fitting thought than this verse to describe the gathering in this House of God, calling on the Lord

to secure justice and freedom for the Filipino people at a critical period in the country's history, as well as for the whole of mankind.

We call on the Lord at a time when the world is on the brink of another global war, more terrifying than any other in the past, when the greater bulk of humanity is in the throes of either a political or a religious persecution, bathed in blood

and misery, victims of internal or external forces of oppression, of greed for power, and lust for wealth.

We call on the Lord when our own people at a point in their crisis government find themselves at the crossroads, and are faced with the question as to what options to take: a status quo, or the use of violence to effect a change,

(Page 5, please)

The opposition Lakas ng Bayan (LABAN) last week strongly advocated the election of the position of Metropolitan Manila Governor now being held by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

This developed as candidates of the ruling party, Kilusan Bagong Lipunan (KBL) are expected to face a stiff fight in the forthcoming January 30 local elections following

reports that various opposition groups throughout the country have forged an agreement to field their own candidates under an umbrella organization

(Page 5, please)

Human rights in the Philippines

(The following article originally appeared in the October 27, 1979 issue of America. The author, a former associate editor of the same magazine, recently visited the Philippines after completing a term as visiting professor at the International University of Tokyo. He is a Jesuit.—ED)

by C. J. MCNASPY, S.J.

The tourist to Manila quickly finds everything to satisfy — a sort of South Sea paradise. Japanese agencies, in fact, promise package tours offering specific delights unmentionable in the West. One can move in a circuit of the world's reputedly finest hotels, through a cultural center larger and more elegant than New York's

Lincoln Center, to beaches and entertainment hard to match elsewhere. And all this with no suggestion that Manila's slums rival in horror those of Calcutta. I have seen both. Over 1,485,000 squatters, in fact, live under subhuman conditions in the 256 slums of Metro Manila. Some rural areas with no oppor-

(Page 4, please)

NATIONALIST ALTERNATIVE

The death trap

by RENATO CONSTANTINO

PART IV

Following the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the Philippines has given all sorts of incentives demanded by transnational corporations. Under the Investment Incentive Act, the Export Incentive Act and the Foreign Business Regulations Law, full foreign ownership is permissible in pioneer industries, in Export Processing Zones, in firms which export 70 per cent of their products, and in areas which are not considered overcrowded. Certain rights and privileges are given to foreign investors, including "repatriation of investment and remittance of profits, interest payments, and repayments of loans; guarantees against expropriation and requisition; protection from and action against foreign dumping; preferential treat-

(Page 6, please)



POETESS—Victoria "Vicky" Veloso is a 19-year-old A.B. Literature student of La Salle University who has been consistently winning in the school's poetry and essay-writing contests

At a glance • At a glance

* HOW AMBASSADOR FERNANDEZ TRICKED FILIPINOS IN U.S.A. . . P.2

AWARDS

Philtranga names 'WE' 'Newspaper of the Year'

WE-Forum and three of its columnists bagged the following media awards given by the Philippine Transition Government Association (Philtranga) during appropriate ceremonies

held last Wednesday (Dec. 19):

1. "Newspaper of the Year" for "its courageous exposure of liberty and freedom under a regime of"

(Page 5, please)

PULSE



Editorial

JESUS CHRIST WAS A SUBVERSIVE
(from page 1)

for a free exchange of opinion and ideas, convinced that the truth will make men free. He was not fettered by conventions nor undaunted by the ugly talks about his sanity.

He did not possess any wealth. In fact, He was considered a vagrant. But the people who believed in him, in His ideas, in His credibility and honesty, offered food and shelter to Him and His growing number of proteges who were known as apostles.

In seeking out his vision, many people in the established order and those who wanted to maintain the status quo, collaborated to persecute and prosecute him.

He was called a lot of names. Activist. Non-conformist. Professional Agitator. Subversive.

Because He believed in justice, He let Himself be hailed before the courts to face His accusers. His apostles were rash. They wanted to revolt. But He cautioned them. They laid down their arms.

What were the charges against Him?

That He conspired to overthrow the government. That He protested vehemently against the excesses and corruption of the oligarchs and power-wielders, against oppressive and abusive decrees and laws.

His trial was a mockery. He was never given a whit of a chance to defend Himself. All forces were marshalled against Him.

He was detained. And while under detention, He was tortured and humiliated.

But He took all this degradation calmly. For every abuse heaped upon Him, He gained added strength. He did not lose his dignity. He stood pat on His conviction. No amount of torture could break down His spirit. After all, He was fighting for the ultimate in human endeavor.

The power-hungry, the military, the elite, the "malalakas", the oppressors and suppressors, had their way. He was sentenced to die — on the cross.

Jesus Christ fought — and died — for freedom, for justice, for truth, for love.

Today we commemorate His birth anniversary. And us we, Filipinos, remember Him, let us ask ourselves: Was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ worth it? Do we have freedom, justice, truth and love in our midst?

WE is published weekly by the J. BURGOS MEDIA SERVICES with editorial and business offices at Mezzanine, National Press Club Bldg., Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila. Tel. No. 47-45-33. Reentered as a second class mail matter at the Manila Central Post Office on Nov. 27, 1978. PCPM Certificate of Registration No. 387.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: P24, one year; P12, 6 months.

JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
Publisher-Editor

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE
A VISION.



Daily Express

PUBLISHER'S
NOTES

THE TRICKERY OF AN AMBASSADOR

By JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

Several Filipinos residing in Los Angeles, California, are still smarting from the trickery pulled on them by Ambassador Armando Fernandez, consul general in that American city who staged a well-publicized lavish dinner held October 28 in honor of the First Lady Mrs. Imelda Romualdez-Marcos then barnstorming in the U.S. mainland.

This bit of news was reported by an L.A. Filipino fortnightly newspaper named Philippine Press in its Nov. 16-30 issue.

It appeared that the more than 3,000 Filipinos whom we all saw in attendance during the dinner over our local television stations and their "rousing welcome" splashed on the front pages of Metro daily newspapers, were actually "tricked" into attending the extravagant dinner at the Los Angeles Hilton. It turned out that Fernandez issued invitations for a free dinner on the pretext that it was in celebration of his birthday.

When the guests poured in, they never got the inkling that they were supposed to welcome Mrs. Marcos whose presence in the hotel was reportedly kept under wraps. It was only after the dinner was served that Fernandez announced the First Lady's presence, heralding her as his "surprised birthday gift" to the crowd.

Here are excerpts of the Philippine Press news-story:

"In a display of extravagance never before witnessed in this city, partitions of three big ballrooms at the Los Angeles Hilton were dismantled and converted into one huge banquet hall to accommodate the large crowd, and only the best dinner was served to them.

"The menu included prime rib and champagne. A check with Los Angeles

Hilton disclosed that the hotel charged \$18 per head including tax and service. At 3,000 heads the bill totaled \$54,000."

The newspaper also quoted some of the guests' reaction to the glittering affair.

Said a club president: "I should not have come if they had told me that they were going to take TV pictures of us cheering Mrs. Marcos. This is contrary to my political belief and Fernandez should have the decency to tell the truth. It is now clear to me how the Marcos regime operate to continue to deceive the Filipino people."

A prominent Filipino civic leader was also quoted:

"It is a shame that they had to use whatever little money the government has for a lavish dinner which was not necessary at all. As it was, they made us look like a bunch of free-loaders asking government favors and licking their boots. Why not use the money to feed our starving people back home? The dinner was useless and wasteful."

Bulletin Today columnist Nick Enciso, a very good friend, has commented in his December 20 column:

"The three-year-old 'WE', dubbed as the 'national weekly forum of free expression', provides the martial law administration with a good argument that there is no curtailment of press freedom in the Philippines today."

I think my friend Nick — and a host of others — should go deeper to examine the issues involved. While it is true that WE has been publishing critical stories against Mr. Marcos' martial law regime and printing the opposition's views on matters of national interest without interference or censor-

(Page 5, please)

VIEW-
POINT

IS DICTATORSHIP FOREVER?

By RAUL M. GONZALEZ

This column thanks Jimmy de la Rosa — DZEB's deonatore-actor turned radio commentator for affording the IBP Greater Manila region with invaluable airtime over his program every Saturday morning from 7:30-8:30 A.M. to reach our people who need legal advice in the most inexpensive and expeditious way. Considering that the IBP is fielding lawyers with impeccable credentials in Jimmy's program to answer phoned in questions as well as personal interviews with people who, otherwise may not be able to afford legal services, I am certain that our people will find this program very useful and could serve as a catalyst to the growing feeling among our destitute and ignorant masses that justice is beyond their reach today.

I am very proud, indeed, of the board of officers of the IBP chapters in Greater Manila as well as the lawyers who have voluntarily offered their services in the legal aid program which is the cornerstone of my administration as Governor of the region. Despite their busy daily schedules, chapter presidents and officers—starting with QC President

Dading Peralta, Manila I President Ed de Leon, Manila II President Bobby Yuseco and Manila III President Jose Papa and other officers like Elias Fernandez, Vic Pulido of Manila IV, Atty. Leovillo Agustin and Dave Calvario of QC have been braving the nipping cold December mornings to rush to the station every Saturday morning to do public service. I think with lawyers like them in my region, there is hope for the poor and the oppressed.

Mr. Marcos has made a categorical announcement before the Philippine Columbian Association that he will not lift Martial Law. Using the developments in other parts of the world as his excuse, Mr. Marcos said that he does not care what the people here and abroad will say about him but he will "not dismantle authoritarianism".

This is a sad development for our country, indeed. So much hope had been pinned in that oft-repeated announcement of Mr. Marcos that he will lift martial law—perhaps within the next 18 months because he "does not want to leave martial law as his legacy to the Filipino

(Page 5, please)

THIS IS
MY OWN

LITTLE GREEN APPLES

We ask our people to get behind the plow
And engage in food production
But why then do we allow
The export of food that we need
And engage in food deduction?
Or did God fill our waters with prawns in
His bounty
So we could export them and feed another
country?

We have never systematized
The handling and growth of local bananas
To feed our own people
But we reserve large tracts of land
For the development of huge plantations
In order to feed other nations

Our people must have a priority
Over the fruits of our own soil
They must have a priority
Over the fruits of their own toil
A protective policy on food
Will give our people a lift
At this time of the year
It will come like a gift

For only a Filipino First Food policy
Can make our people's Christmas Merry
Not those little imported apples from
China —
or even cherry

Joaquin R. Roces
1979

METRO MANILA NEWS



Hot contest in Metro

The coming Jan. 30 local elections will be noisy contested in the four cities and 13 towns of Metro Manila. Both the majority KBL and the united opposition will be fielding candidates for mayor and vice-mayor who have not only distinguished themselves but who also possess political glamor.

On the part of the KBL, the talk is that the party's Central Committee, headed by President Marcos himself, will thoroughly screen the 17 incumbent mayors to determine who among them would have a chance at winning. The decision on who will be selected may be made this Dec. 20 when the Central Committee meets in Malacañang.

As the chairman of the Metro Manila regional committee of the party in power, Mrs. Marcos will have a big say in who will be chosen official candidates. She will have to carry the major share of the responsibility in carrying the party through to victory.

Of the 17 incumbent mayors, five or six were said to be sure of being chosen as official KBL candidates: Makati Mayor

sition, the talk is that the biggest names among anti-martial law critics will be fielded, such as former Senator Francisco 'Soc' Rodrigo, Jovito Salonga and Jose W. Diokno and former Congressman Nepomoceno Pura Salazar and Roces.

Former Senator Benigno Aquino may run for governor of his native province of Tarlac while former Senator Gerardo Roxas may do the same in Capiz.

The election in Metro Manila will occupy center stage, considering that the capital and its economic, metropolitan is the country's religious, educational and political heartland.

There will be no elective positions of sanggunian members in Metro Manila. President Marcos has announced that a special legislative body will be created for the entire metropolitan area. Assemblyman Arturo M. Tolentino, however, has contested this decision, saying that there is no legal impediment to having the sanggunian continue in each city and town.

Because of the short time between now and election day on Jan. 30, both KBL and united opposition are expected to select their candidates for mayor and vice-mayor before the end of December. By Jan. 2, the campaign will be in full swing.

EXPROPRIATION IN CALOOCAN

CALOOCAN CITY—Acting City Mayor Virgilio P. Robles is sending to the Metro Manila Commission this week for approval an executive ordinance providing for the expropriation of 120,000 square meters of land needed for the circumferential road in the "bukid" area.

The mayor is taking this step upon learning that some of the owners of the lands are objecting to the road project passing through their properties.

The executive ordinance, the mayor said, will include a proviso appropriating P12,000 to be deposited in court in support of the expropriation of the 120,000 square meters. He said that the moment the money is deposited, the city will take immediate possession of the lands so that the implementation of the project could continue.

Under an existing decree, in expropriating proceedings once a deposit of 10 percent of the value of the property is made, the government can take possession of the property.

Robles said that the P12,000 deposit is based on the assessed value of P1 per square meter of the

land or an aggregate value of P120,000 for the 120,000 square meters.

He said that the survey of the six-kilometer road has already been finished and construction started. He said that by March next year, the circumferential road will already be passable to traffic.

The road starts in Barangay Kaybiba and ends in Barangay Camarin, passing through Barangays Llano, Deparo and Bagumbong. In Camarin, the road will join an existing thoroughfare going to Tala.

ORDINANCE ON PAY PARKING

Street areas in the four cities and 13 municipalities of Metro Manila will be set aside for vehicular parking with pay, under the rules being drafted to implement the ordinance promulgated by Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos last week.

Ismael A. Mathay, Jr., assistant to the MMC governor, is drawing up the rules which are expected to be finished before the end of the year.

The Metro Manila Traffic Operations Center under Asst. Antonio Bicenio, executive director, will designate the street sections where parking will be authorized. Bicenio told the Mail that he will consult the police station in each city and town on the matter.

Under the parking ordinance, parking fees are P2 for the first hour and P1 for each succeeding hour, but not to exceed P10 a day. Out-of-school Kabataang Barangay members will be employed as parking attendants.

The first streets to be used for pay parking will be T.M. Kalaw, Pedro Gil, Taft Avenue and Roxas Boulevard and the streets within this area, according to Mathay, Jr. Certain streets in Chinatown and in downtown Manila may follow next.

After Manila, certain thoroughfares in Quezon City will be designated, followed by Makati, Caloocan and Pasay. The rest of the towns will then be attended to.

Only one side of a designated street will be used for pay parking. The parking spaces will be delineated with white lines. KB attendants will record the vehicles using the parking spaces. According to Executive Director Bicenio of the traffic operations center, tickets will be issued by the attendants to the driver of each vehicle.

The estimated collection of P40,000 a day will be divided between the local governments and the MMC after operating expenses are deducted.



1935 CONSTITUTION

Democracy in RP

By

DR JUAN M. ARREGLADO
Governor of Philconsa and
Secretary-General of Philippine
Ambassador Association

PART I



Introduction

Scientists and preachers agreed that the Law of Nature was inevitable, and steady progress and the circumstances of life conspired to make us feel that they were right. But, as we all know now, the new Golden Age did not arrive as predicted. Contemporary developments make us fearful that science may turn out to be the Great Destroyer rather than Universal Savior.

The most ominous threat to our society and civilization is wrapped up in the world-wide struggle now going between two antagonistic and mutually exclusive views of the good life. After many decades of costly struggles for the attainment of our cherished ideas of freedom and independence, and at the close of what we thought was a successful war for the establishment of these ideas, we now wake up to discover them under a relentless and aggressive attack by a hostile view of life possessed of great scientific, military, economic and emotional potential and scornful of the freedom and independence we prize so much.

Reluctantly we are coming to understand that for us, Filipinos, it is no more academic debating contest. Without our willing it, may against our own wishes, we have no other choice but to resort to force in order to defend our Free Way of Life. And because we have had no experience in the past that prepared us to this type of contest, we are still milling about in considerable confusions, unable yet to cope wisely and effectively with a hostile ideology with such force and virility as International Communism. Consequently, we suffer moments of national jitters which make us lose at times our sense of national direction. But we must be careful not to take these too seriously, considering the novelty of our new role as an independent people and the fact that we are just beginning to grow in wisdom as an independent people.

The 1935 Constitution

The very act by which the 1935 Constitution was created was one of belief in democratic freedom and individual initiative. The framing of that Constitution was not achieved by accident. It was the result of centuries of struggle by our people against the processes of autocracy. It was created in order to give every man in our land the chance as any other man to exercise mastery over his fortune.

The architects of the

1935 Constitution were not crackpots mouthing stray theories developed in the heat of the moment out of sincere, careful students of history who were sensitive to the implications of the long and tortuous process by which mankind, from his earliest days, had struggled for freedom. Their best thought embodied in the Constitution was the fruit of generations of bloody struggle. It was the culmination of the highest and best intellectual and moral effort the Filipino has ever exerted in the field of government.

Under the 1935 Constitution, our government is organized on the principle that the people, the citizens, as individuals, are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights as to life, liberty and property. However, being sensible to the danger that their descendants would grow lax and begin to surrender their God-given rights of representative government, civil and religious freedom, the framers of the 1935 Constitution created, as a safeguard, a constitutional government with sufficient checks and balances to prevent the centralization of power and the usurpation of liberties. They provided two levels of government — the national and the local. They placed the center of power as close as possible to the people so that the people may more easily control their local and national government. It was their desire to set up, not an elective despotism, but a government founded on free principles, and in which the powers of government are so divided and balanced among several bodies, so that no one could transcend their legal limits without being effectually

checked and restrained by the others.

It was to be a government of delegated powers only, and the people, by the Constitution, forbade and intended to forbid the national government doing anything not specifically authorized by the Constitution. To try to make doubly sure that the national government would not regiment its citizens and invade their rights as free men, a Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution. This was actually a "Bill of Prohibitions" specifically prohibiting Congress making laws impairing these rights. Thus, the traditional theory of our government was and is that the rights of the people as to their individual freedoms are personal and inalienable; that these are retained rights and not grants from the government, and therefore, are not subject to change or modification unless the Constitution be changed by the people themselves and cannot be given away or modified by the President even with the approval of the Congress. They are not like monies from taxes, subject to disposition by the President and the Congress. These basic rights belong to the people, and are retained by the people even as against the government itself.

In the history of the world, governments have accorded freedom to the individual citizens, only if forced to do so or if the sovereign for the time being felt so inclined. The previous concept of the scope and power of a government was that it had inherent rights and functions of its own. But by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights only certain specific and limited functions were conferred upon the officials of the government.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Residence tax payment rule

Residence taxes which are available starting Jan. 2, 1980, whether from natural or juridical persons, must be paid in the place of residence of the individual or in the place where the principal office of a juridical entity is located.

This was stressed by MMC Assistant for Finance Mauro G. Calaguio in a memorandum which he has issued to the city and municipal treasurers of Metropolitan Manila. He said that the place of payment of a residence tax is clearly spelled out in Sec. 38 (d) of the Local Tax

Code, as amended.

In his memorandum, Calaguio instructed all city and municipal treasurers to mount an information campaign among all taxpayers to make them buy their residence certificates in their place of residence or place of business.

The MMC official observed that such campaign is necessary because in previous years, tax collectors from other towns and provinces had invaded Metro Manila to sell residence certificates.



Pres. MARCOS

Nemesio Yabut, Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cineta, San Juan Mayor Joseph Estrada, Caloocan Acting City Mayor Virgilio P. Robles and Muntinlupa Mayor Maximino Argana.

The rest will be screened thoroughly, Mrs. Marcos recently declared that a survey will be conducted on how they stand with their constituents.

There is the probability that those mayors who will not be fielded will be given other assignments and replaced with the persons to be picked as official candidates in order that the latter could start their election campaign.

The list of possible candidates for mayor being considered by the KBL hierarchy include Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo and Assemblymen Arturo M. Tolentino, Gerardo Espina and Emilio Añello. Supreme Court Justice Antonio Barredo's name is also being mentioned.

On the part of the oppo-

WE Classified Ads

BUSINESS DIRECTORY * LEGAL NOTICES

Republic of the Philippines
COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE OF RIZAL
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Branch XVII-B Quezon City

TESTATE ESTATE OF

ELPIDIO P. CLAVECILLA, SR.,

Testator,

Sp. Proc. No. Q-28790

VIRGINIA J. CLAVECILLA,

Petitioner,

X — — — — — X

ORDER

This is a petition filed by petitioner Virginia J. Clavecilla, thru counsel, to approve the will of Elpidio P. Clavecilla, Sr. The petition alleges, among others, that petitioner Virginia J. Clavecilla has been named the executrix; that to the best knowledge of petitioner, the said deceased left properties, both real and personal with the approximate value of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND (P200,000.00) PESOS, Philippine Currency.

It appearing that the petition is sufficient in form and substance, let the hearing of the same be set on January 7, 1980 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, before this Court sitting at the New City Hall Bldg., Quezon City, on which date and hour aforementioned all interested persons may appear and contest, either orally or in writing the last will and testament of Elpidio P. Clavecilla Sr.

Let a copy of this order be published at the expense of the petitioner in the "WE", a newspaper of general circulation once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines, November 28, 1979.

LINO L. ANOVER
Judge

(Dec. 5, 15, 22, 1979)

Republic of the Philippines
IN THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE OF RIZAL
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Branch XVI — Quezon City

IN THE MATTER OF THE INTESTATE
ESTATE OF FAUSTO A. UY,

SP. PROC. Q-27587

ROBERT L. UY,

Petitioner,

X — — — — — X

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been issued in the above-entitled case in favor of ROBERT L. UY of No. 67 Nicanor A. Roxas St., Quezon City.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN requiring all persons having claims for money against the decedent Fausto A. Uy, arising from contract, expressed or implied, whether the same be due, not due, or contingent, for funeral expenses or expenses for the last sickness of the said Fausto A. Uy, and judgment for money against him, to file said claim with the undersigned Branch Clerk of Court, Court of First Instance of Rizal, Branch XVI, Quezon City, sitting at the 6th floor, New City Hall Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, within six (6) months from date of first publication of the notice, serving a copy upon aforementioned Robert L. Uy, the appointed Administrator of the estate of the decedent.

Let the Notice be published at the expense of the petitioner in the newspaper of general circulation selected by raffle in the Province of Rizal and in this City, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, to which newspaper, this Notice was assigned after a raffle duly held pursuant to Rep. Act 4569, as amended by Rep. Act No. 4883, and further amended by Presidential Decree No. 19, dated October 11, 1972.

Witness the Honorable Sergio A. F. Apostol, Judge of this Court, this 3rd day of December, 1979.

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA M. PAGOROGON
Officer-in-Charge

CFI Branch XVI — Quezon City

Dec. 22, 29, 1979; Jan. 5, 1980

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

An application for authority to engage in the business as independent marketer of LPG for automotive use with Combined Motor Services, Inc., as proposed dealer has been filed with the Bureau of Energy Utilization as of Sept. 18, 1979.

Unless otherwise rescheduled upon prior notice, the Bureau of Energy Utilization at the 5th floor, Electric House corner Esteban Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati, Metro Manila, will hear the application on Dec. 20, 1979 at 9:30 A.M.

Any opposition to the application must be in writing verified and filed with the Bureau of Energy Utilization at least five (5) days before the date of hearing.

By Order: BUREAU OF ENERGY UTILIZATION

Dec. 5, 15 & 22, 1979

HUMAN RIGHTS.

(from page 1)

tunity to better their lives and nothing to return to, since life in the country is even worse.

Happily, I was able to visit Manila as an observer, not a tourist. My hosts were conscientious Filipino and foreign social workers and professors from several universities, scholars of high competence and integrity. They provided me with results of scholarly research (some not yet published), generously allowing me to use it in this report. Perhaps more, they escorted me by "jeepney" and on foot through Tondo, and the Constitution Hill and San Pedro Resettlement Areas, and other slums the existence of which I could never have suspected.

It was, ironically, the Constitution Hill area that I found most depressing. The people existing there had been forcibly removed, not from the spot where the multi-million-dollar National Assembly building is being constructed, but from within sight of it. Many Filipinos find this building farcical, since their country has been under martial law since 1972, and there seems no reason to put up yet another monument to President Ferdinand E. Marcos's extravagant pretensions. Nine babies died during the eviction, but eyesores are not allowed to befoul the area near Government or tourist structures.

One priest friend and I walked in the mud after our jeepney dropped us where the road stopped. People welcomed us cordially, since they knew the priest who serves them and several other slums. Despite destitution the children were all smiles for us. As we entered the community center, built by the people with no Government aid, the mood changed. There on the bench lay a corpse, lovingly watched over by widow and children. The man had been killed by a hit-and-run driver, and the community was rallying to help his stricken family. Since their hut was too small for a wake, indeed too small for a family, they used the center. I was to discover later that this was by no means Manila's worst slum.

Martial law was proclaimed by President Marcos on Sept. 21, 1972. The official tourist manual explains that he did this "faced with a breakdown of law and order, increased subversive activities with a growing foreign-based support and secessionist movement in Muslim Philippines." While it is impossible to prove, many serious scholars are persuaded that Mr. Marcos himself, nearing the end of his second and last term, fomented the problem that gave him the excuse to proclaim martial law. They point out that his own books foretold every step. Further, he has never shown anyone the "secret docu-

ments" that are alleged to have proven the existence of a conspiracy. This "conspiracy," he asserts, represented a bizarre coalition of what he calls "rightist oligarchs" (i.e., the families of Mr. Marcos's political rivals: Senator Benigno L. Aquino, who has been in prison since 1972, and Eugenio Lopez Jr., imprisoned until his recent escape), Maoists, the Muslim National Liberation Front and certain unnamed "criminal elements." In the "riots" cited by Mr. Marcos, and which his own men may have engineered, exactly one person was killed, apparently by accident.

President Marcos's book *Today's Revolution — Democracy*, published a year before he declared martial law, presented the blueprint of what he styled the "New Society" and makes it clear that this New Society must be authoritarian. It has been, in fact, dictatorial, and in the word of many observers, tyrannical. James B. Reuter, S.J., director of the National Office of Mass Media in the Philippines, told me: "We do not have martial law in the Philippines. Nothing in martial law would allow the President to abolish the Congress and geld the judiciary by having every judge in the country, including the Supreme Court, tender their resignations and inform the Supreme Court that it had no authority over him in anything. Nor would martial law give him the power of appointing all governors, all mayors, all 'barangay' (village) captains. Nor does martial law give the President the right to rule by decree. We don't have martial law in the Philippines. We have a total dictatorship. We have tyranny." Little wonder that Father Reuter's office was raided by the military, with everything readable impounded, and his paper, *The Communicator*, closed down.

What have seven years of the Marcos New Society done for the country? A number of imposing Government buildings and posh hotels have been built, to be sure. One sees few superhighways, half-finished paved roads and an impressive, new but unfinished international airport. In short, a facade of prosperity.

In Manila the average real wage is at least 40 percent lower than it was in 1972. According to University of the Philippines economist Emilio Jurado, even skilled workers are now living at the poverty level, with barely enough food, no money for medicine or for giving children more than an 8th-grade education or more than one change of clothes per year. In the country conditions are worse. Today 68 percent of all Filipino households live below the poverty level. To return to 1972 standards, shop workers would have to have wages increased by 96

percent, even the privileged construction workers by 47 percent. Only the military have not suffered.

After seven years of the New Society, according to the Food and Nutrition Institute of the Philippines, 70 percent of the population suffers from malnutrition, the cause of 40 percent of all deaths. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Administration, Filipinos' average diet is 270 calories below the minimum daily requirements as determined by the World Bank. The Asian Development Bank finds Filipino calorie consumption the lowest in all of Asia — even below that of Bangladesh. Meanwhile, money (from taxes and from U.S. aid) goes lavishly in to extravagant Government buildings and into luxury hotels.

Perhaps more hideous is the total suspension of civil rights. The constitutional guarantees of freedom from arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, freedom of speech, of assembly and of the press have been suspended or otherwise rendered ineffective. Thousands have been held for extended periods, months or even years, without trial. Torture and abusive treatment of prisoners suspected of subversive activities have been fully documented by Amnesty International and other objective agencies, while new cases are regularly reported by the underground press. Many prisoners have disappeared without a trace. Others are known to have died violent deaths while under interrogation. All of this I have from sources well known to me and whom I consider unimpeachable.

Thus, it was not surprising that the International Commission of Jurists, in their report published in 1977 in Geneva, concluded: "The present Government is now employing the power granted to it by the Constitution not primarily to protect the nation from 'invasion, insurrection or rebellion or imminent danger thereof, when the public safety requires it,' but rather to perpetuate the personal power of the President and his collaborators and to increase the power of the military to control Philippine society."

Recently the Solicitor General admitted that at least 4,000 political detainees are being held. There is, of course, no way to know the exact number. There are 70 known stockades, as well as "provincial centers" whose number cannot be calculated. In addition, the military has what are euphemistically called "safe houses" for "tactical interrogation." President Marcos, of course, denies that there are any "political prisoners." This may be simply a matter of sophistic definition, since they are not reckoned political prisoners until formally charged, while any number of months of "preliminary investigation" may go on,

Only four cases have, in fact, reached formal trial since martial law was declared. The Philippines are, of course, a physically beautiful archipelago. Inevitably, the term Gulag pops into mind.

Somehow, unlike the situation in the Soviet Union, information is not impossible to secure. For one thing, the outside world enjoys easy access at least to the elegant part of Manila and other tourist areas. Scholarship, while inhibited, is not controlled. An underground press thrives, though precariously, since one never knows when the military will move in. One surviving publication (that is, surviving as I write this) is named WE. Published by courageous Christian journalists, it attempts to give important news throttled by Government censors. For example, when Manila's amiable, unradical Cardinal Jaime Sin spoke to the world press while I was in the Philippines and criticized the Government, we knew about this only through WE. Otherwise we should not have been aware that the Cardinal stated: "Our New Society is martial law. At first there was a desire to get rid of the oligarchy, but now we have a new set of oligarchs — the generals and relatives. President Marcos disregards the Constitution. There is need for democracy here. I ask the President to prepare the way to step down, to make our country truly constitutional." A brave thing to say, indeed. But in a country overwhelmingly Catholic, the Cardinal could hardly be arrested when he stated: "Marcos is a brilliant man, but one who wants to stay in power. No man lives forever. We are asking him to normalize the political life of the Philippines, following the established norms of the Constitution. Otherwise, many fear that he will be succeeded by a military coup." Repeatedly I wondered whether this lovely country was in a Somoza-like situation.

There may be no immediate danger to Mr. and Mrs. Marcos. Their control over the military seems absolute. Further, the 50 oligarchs who control the country's economic life are securely behind the regime. Jesuit sociologist John F. Doherty's volume on the interlocking directorates that control the nation's economy and his magazine *Ichthys* have not been refuted (nor has the magazine yet been closed down, despite threats).

Even more serious is the constant assault on the minds of children that is obviously part of the authoritarian technique. An elaborate Program for Youth Leaders includes intense seminars that resemble other brainwashing devices. The youngsters are made to feel privileged, stationed in huts with a single electric bulb centrally controlled, deprived of watches or other means of judging time, made to live only in

(Page 5, please)

groups and march in step. At the center of each hut is a huge picture of President Marcos as "Father of Youth Barangay." The young people rise at 4:30 A.M., and after two hours of drill and calisthenics are given vigorous indoctrination in the program of the New Society, hearing endless speeches of President Marcos. On the last day, the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, makes a graduation speech concluding with: "Who is the savior of the Republic?" Their response: "Marcos!" Youth are taught that Philippine history really began with Mr. Marcos. Their Barangay Brigades are treated to a ceremony known as "exorcizing the demon," during which the sins against the New Society are castigated and burned in effigy. A further initiation ceremony includes a dark room with only an illuminated picture of Mr. and Mrs. Marcos; on a table are a book written by President Marcos and a skull; the youth are led in blindfolded, tapped by an official and made to take an oath to the New Society and pledge to secrecy; finally they sign their names, sometimes in blood, in the book.

More than one educated Filipino told me that the only hope for relief from New Society tyranny lies in the church. Several bishops in remote dioceses are courageously outspoken. Significant is the office of the Major Religious Superiors, which succeeds in producing careful documentation. In 1975, however, the Press Media Advisory Council, headed by a local press lord friendly with the regime, began to exercise tight censorship, requiring religious superiors to register with him. The religious superiors' first publication, Various Reports, became changed to Signs of the Times. In December 1976, the military came in some 40 vehicles to raid their office. Now they are still able to publish a small bulletin, Informations Causa, sent to superiors for their own distribution. In June 1977, Ichthys (Greek for "fish," the ancient Christian acronym) started appearing weekly. Copies rarely get out of the country, unless mailed in other envelopes. No one knows when this, too, will be suppressed.

The first Spaniards arriving in the Philippines reported that "these people have no kings." One wonders what they would say were they to observe the political scene today. For the present President Ferdinand and First Lady Imelda enjoy far more real power and control than Ferdinand and Isabella or any other kings and queens known to history were able to exercise. Few students of the situation saw reasons to hope for an improvement in the near future.

military rule where coercive force rather than reason prevails, denies to the country notwithstanding.

2. "Publisher of the Year"—Jose G. Burgos, Jr. for "his fearless, hard-hitting and no-holds-barred publishing of 'WE' whose stories are mostly anti-establishment in spite of the atmosphere under martial law."

3. "Columnist of the Year"—Assemblyman Ruben Canoy (who writes the regular "Majority of One" column) for "his venomous columns directed not only against Premier Marcos himself whom he even challenged to abolish the Batasang Pambansa where he is a member for allegedly being a rubber stamp of Malacañang."

4. "Anti-Martial Law Critic of the Year"—Raul M. Gonzalez (who writes the weekly column "Viewpoint") for "his crusading series of exposes against military abuses which oftentimes were the basis of probe by the Ministry of National Defense."

Chairman of the Philtranga awards committee is former Ambassador Juan Arreglado. The board is composed of the following: Frankie Grego, president; Bishop Mariano Gaviola, Dean Jose M. Aruego, Dr. Domingo B. Madumba, Jolly Ting, Dean Feliciano Roque, Jr., Jesus P. Gali, Salvador Gonzales, Vicente Layawen, Mons. Macario Ga. Babynette Belgica, Antonio Aspiras, Ante, Dr. Mariano Alimurung and Judge Zacarias Crispin.

The media awards are given annually by the Philtranga in recognition of outstanding achievements of mass media men and women in various fields.

PUBLISHER'S (from page 2)

ship from the powers-that-be, this should not be taken to mean that we have a free press in the Philippines.

What WE has done—and continues to do—is to test the limits of what Mr. Marcos has been braying about as the existence of "free expression" even under martial law. It is a great risk that we are taking and I think that makes a hell of a difference. We are not certain how long we will continue to publish. In fact, our permit to put out this newspaper expires on Dec. 31 or a few days from now. Of course, we have applied for a renewal of our permit.

At the same time, one should consider the fact that WE is alone in this struggle for free press. In a way, we are just a drop in the bucket among the country's mass media.

If some other newspapers will follow our stance, untrammelled in venting critical opinions and without the pervasive fear that they may face closure and their publishers and editors arrested, then we can safely say that indeed, we have a free press.

or a peaceful return to the democratic way of life under the 1935 Constitution?

The time is too short for a satisfactory discourse on all these three options I am presenting before you this afternoon but maybe, I can at least briefly explain my reasons for the options I reject and the road I choose to follow with the help of the Lord.

My brothers and sisters, I reject a status quo for this means martial law and constitutional authoritarianism ad infinitum. I do not advocate, however, the use of violence to destroy the status quo nor do I find it desirable to jump into the handwagon of political ideologies other than the

VIEWPOINT... (from page 2)

people. With so many ready excuses available to be led to the controlled media justifying the continued imposition of one-man rule in this country. I think we should just forget about all hopes for the eventual return of democracy in this land. I think it will be a long, long time before freedom will be restored in this country and, in the meantime, let us just kiss democracy goodbye.

Unknown to many in the legal circles, the worst incursion has been going on inside the sanctum sanctorum of Malacañang in the course of the investigations being conducted by the military on the alleged anomalies in the Professional Regulations Commission. According to highly reliable sources, interrogations are being conducted on the members of the various Board of Examiners by military interrogators from 9:00 in the morning continuously until midnight while the persons being subjected to interrogations do not have the benefit of counsel assistance. Sometimes one person is subjected to interrogation for 3 to 4 days continuously, everyday from 9:00 to midnight and I understand that the military inquisitors will not stop the questionings unless the subjects give the answers that they want to be given.

Sometimes I cannot believe these stories under a government—supposed to be of laws and not of men. Unfortunately these things happen and we are helpless to give protection to the victims of these injustices because the investigations take place from public accessibility.

I am wondering. Why is it that General Prospero Olivas, Metrocom chief is now the one issuing ASSO's? I understand that even as far as Leyte, the ASSO issued by the general is being used, as in the arrest of former Vice-Mayor Quintero of Tacloban City. Only recently no less than Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said that only Mr. Marcos can issue the ASSO. If even the Defense Minister refrains from issuing ASSO, can a mere general do it?

democratic way of life ordained under the 1935 Constitution. These are the options I am taking at my crossroads and these I affirm on this day when we commemorate the 31st anniversary of the promulgation of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

In a Proclamation issued by President Ferdinand E. Marcos on September 21, 1972, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and invoking the powers vested upon him by the Philippine Constitution of 1935 (Art. VII, Sec. 10, par. 2), he placed the entire Philippines under martial law. The constitutionality of his proclamation was upheld by the Supreme Court in the case of Benigno S. Aquino Jr. and others and several accompanying cases decided on Dec. 17, 1974, and as a member of that Court at that time I concurred in such a decision principally on the ground that there were factual bases for the proclamation of martial law, subject, however, to the limitations provided for by the Constitution, that martial law is to be imposed only in cases of invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, or imminent danger thereof, when the public safety requires it.

The martial law concept envisioned in the Constitution was, however, extended to include other purposes, such as, to establish a "new society", introduce reforms in government, eradicate graft and corruption, establish a new economic order to meet the economic crisis, recession, etc. afflicting the nations of the world.

Not only these, but under martial law, the new Constitution which was put into effect in 1973 was further amended in a manner which, as I stated in my dissenting opinion in *Sanidad vs. Comelec* (Oct. 12, 1976), was contrary to the provisions of the Constitution on the amending process, inasmuch as the President did not possess powers to propose amendments to the Constitution as well as set up the required machinery and prescribe the procedure for the ratification of his proposals by the people.

With the 1976 amendments to the 1973 Constitution, executive and legislative powers were concentrated in the hands of one man. Thus

1) Amendment no. 3 provides that the incumbent President who is none other than President Marcos shall be the Prime Minister who shall continue as such even after the organization of the Interim Batasang Pambansa, thereby, making President Marcos President and Prime Minister for life.

2) Amendment no. 5 provides that the incumbent President shall continue to exercise legislative powers until martial law shall have been lifted.

ed.

3) Notwithstanding the lifting of martial law, the President or the Prime Minister may exercise legislative powers even during the existence of the Interim Batasang Pambansa or the regular National Assembly whenever among others in his judgment there is need for immediate action on any matter.

In addition to the concentration of executive and legislative powers in the hands of the President and Prime Minister, he exercises likewise a stronghold on the judiciary. Under Sec. 9 of the Transitory Provisions of the 1973 Constitution, the incumbent members of the judiciary at the time of the promulgation of the 1973 Constitution may be replaced by any new appointee simply at the pleasure of the chief executive. In fact, even one who has been appointed to the bench after the effectivity of the new Constitution can be dismissed from the service as in fact it did happen in the case of one Judge of the Court of First Instance whose alleged resignation was accepted although no such resignation had ever been filed.

I need not stress the evils or dangers of abuse and tyranny which can spring from concentration of absolute power in the hands of one man or group of men to the misery of the governed.

A noted writer and author, the former Miss Beth Day, says in her book that the Philippines is the shattered showcase of democracy in Asia. This being true, I submit that democracy in our country has to be restored, for the Filipino people in their Constitutions of 1935 and 1973 vowed and pledged to establish a government to secure for themselves and prosperity the blessings of democracy under the regime of justice, peace, liberty, and equality.

The American Constitutional writer, Mr. Rossiter, in his book entitled "Constitutional Dictatorship" which was the authority cited by the Supreme Court in its decision in *Sanidad vs. Comelec*, while justifying concentration of power in the executive in exceptional circumstances, warns, nevertheless, of the dangers of dictatorship or authoritarianism, even if only conceived as a temporary arrangement in a period of crisis. He says: "Once a constitutional dictatorship is initiated, it is inevitable

ELECT METRO... (from page 1)

dubbed "United National Opposition."

LABAN Chairman ex-Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada said Thursday that the position of Metro Manila Governor should be placed on the block to give the residents of the four cities and 13 municipalities an opportunity to elect their own leader, and not through a mere appointment by President Marcos. "The Metro Manila Governor should get a mandate from the people," Tañada said.

Earlier, stalwarts of the Liberal Party led by ex-Sens. Gerry Roxas and Jovito Salonga and the Nacionalista Party led by former Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., were reported to have joined forces with other opposition groups. (Page 6, please)

that the man charged with its success will seek more extraordinary powers or demand more procedural readjustments than are necessary or expedient. Unwarranted suspension of rights and unnecessary alterations of governmental procedures as well as individual abuses of emergency power, are dangers that must be consistently opposed by public opinion." (p. 297, Rossiter's)

This same writer stated certain principles which are worth considering:

First, that no Constitutional dictatorship should be initiated unless it is indispensable to the preservation of the state and its constitutional order. Hence, applying this to our present situation, constitutional authoritarianism is not to be availed of for purposes of creating a new society, or discovering a new Filipino identity, or for introducing reforms in government, or solving the economic crisis now gripping the country.

Second, no constitutional dictator should be self-appointed.

Third, the measures adopted in the prosecution of a constitutional dictatorship should not be permanent in character or effect.

Fourth, the decision to terminate a constitutional dictatorship like the decision to institute one, should never be in the hands of the man who constitutes the dictator.

For all these reasons which are basically safeguards against political tyranny, I reject a status quo on constitutional authoritarianism.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH POWER TO COLLECT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Eulalio Rasmurcelon, Sr. who died intestate on September 28, 1979, consisting of a savings deposit with the Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank, Sta. Cruz, Manila branch, amounting to P6,565.76 was extrajudicially settled by his heirs with power to collect as per Dec. No. 483, Page No. 98, Book No. XII, Series of 1979, of Notary Public Domingo A. Mendez of Manila.

KURO-KURO

Garapal na panlilinlang

FRANCISCO "SOC" RODRIGO



Hindi binigyan ni Marcos ng kahit katiting na "sporting chance" ang oposisyon sa idaraos na local elections. Sobra and ginawang katusuhan.

Napakaikli ang panahong itinakda upang makapaghanda ang mga pangkat o mga kandidatong kalaban ng KBL. Na-sorpresa ang bayan nang biglang ipinahayag ni Marcos na ang eleksyon ay idaraos sa darating na Enero 30.

Bago nito, pinapaniwalala muna ni Marcos ang bayan na hindi kaagad-agad magtatakda ng eleksyon. Sinabi niyang pasisiyahan ito sa loob ng labing-walong (18) buwan. Pagkaraa'y nagpatay pa siya ng mga kondisyon o mga "kung" . . . batay daw sa mga pangyayari sa Kampuchea, Iran, OPEC, at MNLF. Kaya't walang sinomang nag-akalang sa isang buwan na pala maghahalalan.

Sobrang panglalamang. Labag na labag sa sportsmanship at fair play.

Paanong makapaghahanda ang oposisyon? Kung tutuusin, kulang pang isang (1) buwan ang panahong ipinagkaloob . . . matapos bawasin ang Christmas at New Year holidays.

Impossible; Tantiin nating ang halatang idaraos, bagama't lokal, ay pang-buong bansa. Sentido komun na lang ang gamitin natin. Nagpaparikit pa lamang ang oposisyon ay ubos na ang panahon.

Ito'y garapal na panlilinlang . . . hindi lamang sa oposisyon, kundi sa bayan. Paglalaruan na naman ang bayan. Lilibangin na naman ang tao sa kunwa'y halalan . . . ngunit "lutong Makaw" para sa KBL at kay Marcos.

Isa pa. Ang ginawang ito ni Marcos ay paglabag sa Art. XII, C, Sec. 6 ng kanya na ring 1973 Constitution —

"SEC. 6. Unless otherwise fixed by the Commission in special cases, the election period shall commence ninety days before the day of election and shall end thirty days thereafter."

Maliwanag na ang humabalangkas mismo ng 1973 Constitution ay nani-niwalang SIYAMNAPUNG (90) ARAW ang karampatang panahon sa kampanya. Ang kalkulong ito ay batay sa sitwasyong normal, i.e., ang mga lapang naglalaban ay kapuwa organisado at kapuwa may pagkakataong gumamit ng media (TV, radyo, peryodiko) at iba pang mga kasangkapan upang marating ang bayan.

Ngayong ang oposisyon ay masyadong gipit at agrabyado; ngayong nasa KBL ang lahat ng mga bentaha, hindi baga't lalong marapat na ipasunod ang nasabing taning?

Bagama't ang probisyon ay may eksepsyon, i.e., "Unless otherwise fixed by the Commission in special cases", labag din diyan ang ginawa ni Marcos, sapagka't —

— Hindi ang Commission on Elections, kundi siya (Marcos), ang nagtatakda ng taning na lubhang kulang sa 90 araw; at

— Ang eksepsyon ay dapat pairalin lamang sa "special cases"; hindi sa normal na eleksyong lokal na idaraos sa buong bansa.

At isa pa. Ni hindi malaman kung ano ang kapangyarihan ng mga local

officials. Ano ba ang poder ng mga provincial governor at municipal mayor? Walang liwanag. Tila mga piping galamay lamang sila ni Minister Rono ng Local Governments; ni Minister Imelda Marcos ng Human Settlements; ng Army . . . at ng diktador.

Katuwa ang katayuan ng local officials. May pananagutan sa bayan ngunit walang katumbas na kapangyarihan.

Ang lalo pang malabo ay ang katayuan ng mga mayor sa mga siyudad at munisipyo ng Metro Manila. Nasa ilalim sila ni Gng. Imelda, bilang Metro Manila Governor. Si Gng. Imelda ay hindi kailangang magkandidato sa darating na eleksyon. Patuloy siya sa pagiging Metro Manila governor, kahit hindi humarap sa halalan. Ang mga mayor lamang ang pagsasabunghin, habang panatag siya sa kanyang puwesto.

At, sapagkat hawak ni Gov. Imelda ang kapangyarihan, ang paglalabanan lamang sa halalan ng mga mayor ay kung sino ang magiging mga galamay niya. At, natural, ang sinomang mayor na hindi papayag na maging piping tagasunod ng gobernadora ay hindi makapagdudulot ng biyaya sa kanyang siyudad o munisipyo.

Kaya't masyadong agrabyado ang katayuan ng kandidatong hindi kasapi sa KBL. Bukod sa napakahirap siyang manalo, magiging napakahirap pa rin ang kanyang katayuan kung sakaling siya'y manalo.

Sala siya sa lamig, sala sa init. Kapag hindi siya magpapakumbaba kay Gov. Imelda, wala siyang maldudulot na mehora sa bayan. Kapag siya naman ay susuko, lilitaw siyang taksil sa diwa ng oposisyon . . . pagbaka sa diktadura at pagtatanggol sa demokrasya.

Naito pa ang isa. Habang isinusulat ko ito, hindi pa kumpleto ang pagpapatibay ng local Election Code. Hindi pa malaman kung ano ang mga reglamento ng eleksyon.

Gagamitin na naman daw ang "block voting"? Napakalaking bentaha iyan para sa KBL.

At wala pang liwanag kung aling mga partido ang maaaring paggamitan niyan. Puwede ba ang Liberal at Nacionalista? Puwede ba ang LABAN sa labas ng Metro Manila? Hindi pa alam.

..Heto pa ang isa. Ang Batasan ay nagpatibay ng probisyong nagbabawal na magkandidato o makilahok sa halalan ang sinomang nasasakdal sa bintang na rebelyon, subversyon, etc., kahit wala pang sentensyang pinal.

Maliwanag na ang tina-target nito ay si Ninoy Aquino. Batay sa nasabing provision, si Ninoy ay hindi lamang hindi makapagkakandidato, ni hindi siya papayagang makilahok bilang lider o taga-tulong sa kampanya. Bukit ba naman! Masyado ba ang takot ni Marcos kay Ninoy . . . kahit ito'y nasa loob ng bilanguan? At, hindi ba labag ang ganyang probisyon sa "presumption of innocence" sa Konstitusyon?

ELECT METRO... (from page 5)

notably LABAN, the splintered group of Pasyon Bisaya (Central Visayas), the Philippine Alliance and the Concerned Citizens' Aggregation of Zamboanga (Mindanao and Sur), under the "United National Opposition" (UNO).

It was learned that the UNO's central committee is now in the process of screening the candidates throughout the country. At stake in the elections are positions for provincial governors, vice governors, municipal and city mayors, vice mayors and members of the Sanggunian for cities, towns and provinces.

Where a member-party of the UNO is strong and considers a particular area its bailiwick, it will select its own candidates, according to a spokesman. But the campaign will be concerted, each party contributing to the election of the opposition candidates, he stressed.

The following opposition leaders are expected to be drafted by the UNO:

Bulacan—ex-Rep. Rogaciano Mercado; Tarlac, ex-Rep. Jose V. Yap; Pangasinana, ex-Rep. and Customs Commissioner Jose Lingad; Isabela, ex-Rep. Melanio Singson; Nueva Vizcaya, Jose D. Calderon; Ilocos Sur, ex-Vice Governor Pablo Sanidad; Nueva Ecija, ex-Con-Com delegate Rebeck Espiritu; Laguna, ex-Sen. Wenceslao Lagumbay or ex-Rep. Manuel Concordia.

In Central Visayas, the names of probable candidates are still being screened although for the governorship of Cebu, former Con-Com Vice President Nap G. Rama is being considered. The Mindanao candidates are likewise being formed upon the recommendation of both the Philippine Alliance and the Concerned Citizens' Aggregation.

For Metro Manila, the following are probable candidates:

Manila Mayor — ex-Sen. Ramon V. Mitra, ex-councillors Gemiliano Lopez, Jr. and Cesar Lucero;

Quezon City Mayor — ex-Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo and Nini Quezon-Avanceña, daughter of the late President Manuel L. Quezon;

San Juan Mayor — Juan Sumulong III;

Caloocan — Dr. Antonio Martinez, a LABAN candidate during the IBP elections;

Pasay — Former Vice Mayor Eduardo Calixto;

Parañaque — former Comelec Commissioner Jaime Ferrer;

Pasig — movie actor and radio commentator Rod Navarro;

Rizal Governor — former Congressman Neptali Gonzales.

The opposition group's candidates for other towns of Metro Manila are still being deliberated upon.

Meanwhile, Gemiliano Lopez, Jr., a former Manila councilor last week scored the Marcos administration for the continued participation of the barangays in partisan politics.

He charged that this is against the constitutional provision banning civil servants from active partisan fair and impartial election.

THE DEATH TRAP... (from page 1)

ment of registered enterprises by the government's financial institutions in extending loans; and provision for employment of foreign nationals for a period of five years." Over and above these, there are fiscal incentives; pioneer firms are exempt from all taxes except income tax and post-operative tariff protection; exporting companies are entitled to additional privileges such as tax credits, tax deductions and tax exemptions. The Philippines has also been borrowing larger and larger amounts from international financing institutions for the infrastructure projects required to attract foreign investments. Recent Philippine history has been one of chronic indebtedness; the country's external debt has in fact risen from \$2 billion in 1972 to the astronomical sum of \$8.375 billion as of March, 1979.

The IMF, with its capacity to control and discipline borrowing countries, has tremendous powers of intervention in the domestic life of a nation. Besides possessing vast financial resources of its own, it functions as an international credit agency. This means that if a borrowing nation refuses to follow the economic policies charted for it by the IMF, not only the IMF but virtually all other sources of credit in the capitalist world will be closed to it.

An IMF guarantee of good behavior is the magic key that opens the money vaults, including that of the World Bank. The reason for this confidence in the IMF's judgement lies in the fact that this body is dominated by capitalist states which supply three-fourths of its financing and control two-thirds of the votes. This fact alone should indicate for whose benefit IMF really operates and should dispel the naive belief that it is some sort of impartial international arbiter of economic questions.

On an international scale, the IMF consigns the underdeveloped nations to a system of debt slavery and never gives them the necessary credit to allow them to set up basic industries of their own. At the same time, international cartels are given all sorts of incentives to come in and "develop" the country and even to take over local firms. These countries cannot undertake real industrialization and their economies are kept as dependent as possible on their creditors.

When the IMF extends credit facilities to stabilize the economy of the borrowing state, it merely gives temporary relief. New loans are granted and old ones rescheduled to alleviate exchange difficulties and to allow the country to continue importing from the advanced capitalist nations. This affords a temporary breathing spell until the next crisis occurs, at which time the IMF will again go through the same carrot-and-stick routine.

In effect, therefore, what appears as a generous accommodation to bail out an economically distressed country is really a clever scheme to manipulate its domestic policy to make more profits for the real beneficiaries of the IMF: the creditor nations and their global corporations. No wonder perceptive observers characterize IMF tactics as a modern form of piracy, a hold-up of naive victims by nations that pose as the saviors of the world.

Because the Philippines is a chronic debtor, she has not been able to resist the pressure of the American-dominated IMF to devalue her currency. The successive devaluations of the peso follow the same pattern imposed on other underdeveloped countries. Foreign corporations reap huge benefits from this policy because they pay less for the primary products that come from the underdeveloped area since their dollar buys more than before. On the other hand, devaluation raises the cost of living for the people of the country with the devalued currency. Since their money buys less, imported products are dearer and the price rise invariably affects even the locally-produced goods. As a result, the people have to work longer hours to be able to buy what they need. Foreign profits are made at the expense of the local population who experience a further depression in their living standards.

Another windfall for foreign corporations is that devaluation makes it cheaper for them to buy into or buy out local businesses which are suffering reverses precisely because devaluation has suddenly increased the costs of their foreign components and the peso equivalent of their foreign loans.

Devaluation and the Working Man

IMF-imposed devaluation, coupled with inflation, has tremendously undermined the value of the peso. As a result, the real incomes of the working people lag very much behind the rising prices. The Central Bank itself declared that compared to the peso in 1972, the peso in 1978 was worth only 46.51 centavos. The decline in the value of the peso in effect meant that the P11 the Metro Manila worker was getting in 1978 was only P5.43 in terms of 1972 purchasing power. According to the Wage Commission, the minimum wage in 1979 should be P19.78 just to equal what the P8 that the worker received in 1972 could buy. Even this P19.78 is a far cry from the P26.18 a day needed to maintain a family of six at the poverty threshold in Metro Manila in 1978.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

politics. "In the interest of I am making an appeal to President to prohibit barangays from actively engaging in partisan political activities in the coming election," Lopez said. Lopez, Jr. said the barangays were created to serve the public, their most important function being to promote peace and order. "Accordingly, they stand in the same position as civil servants and therefore should refrain from partisan politics," he stressed.